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FULLER LIBRARY BULLETIN

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The FULLER LIBRARY BULLETIN is issued quarterly by the Library of Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

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A BOOKPLATE OF MARCO BIRNHOLZ

BY PHILIP GOODMAN

A contemporary collector of bookplates is Marco Birnholz, Brooklyn, N.Y. A doctor of pharmacy, he has been active in this field since childhood. Born in Austria, he was president of the Österreichische Exlibris-Gesellschaft. Being that, in the field of ex-libris, the influence of the bookplate owner as co-creator of a work of art is so pronounced, for it is a reflection of the personality of the owner as the artist attempts to abstract his ego, it may be justifiably asserted that Birnholz exerted widespread influence in this area of art, particularly in Austria. He had 350 different bookplates made for himself and members of his family. His collection of ex-libris numbered 40,000, including some of the oldest and rarest as well as those of the foremost artists of the world. The entire collection and his library including rare ex-libris literature was confiscated by the Nazis. Only in 1950, as a result of the intervention of the United States Department of State, the collection was restored to him, albeit with many items missing.

The bookplate reproduced in this bulletin is the work of the famous artist, Uriel Birnbaum, who executed for Birnholz a number of ex-libris. Entitled "City of Books," it depicts a road, winding up a mountain, surrounded by books.

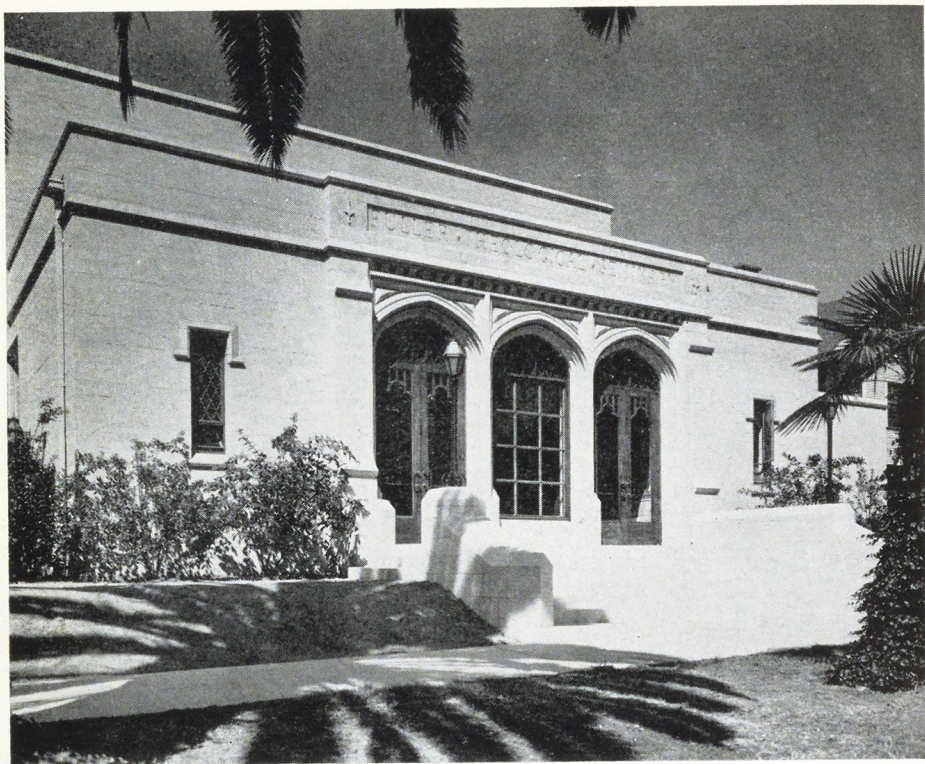
At the peak is a large volume of the Bible with the title in Hebrew on the wide spine: *Law, Prophets, Writings*. One open book has "Ex Libris" and another "Magister Marco Birnholz." This same illustration with the exception of "Ex-Libris" and the name of the owner was made by Birnbaum in full colors. Birnholz loaned the original to the Jewish Book Council of America, sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board, which reproduced it for the official poster for Jewish Book Month in 1952.



WHERE WE WERE

The picture above shows one of the two panel book shelves in the spacious living room of the Cravens Estate on South Orange Grove Avenue in Pasadena where the seminary was first housed, and where the library was housed for six years. The books displayed are largely selections of full leather bindings from the Fyens Stiftsbibliothek collection which was purchased from Denmark in 1949. The room was used mainly for a social hall. Next to it was the original stack room and the library office. In 1948 when the present librarian and assistant librarian came there were approximately 5,000 volumes which had been brought together and which had been partially classified according to the Dewey Decimal system. This basic collection was rearranged and cataloged by the Pettee system. As the collection grew the stacks were extended into the next room to the south and then to the basement, where three large rooms were occupied finally.

The faculty members had offices in the Cravens building, which came to be called High Gate, because of the large iron gate at the entrance. The greater part of Dr. Wilbur M. Smith's personal library was shelved in what was the library room on the second floor. This was made available to students and tables were provided so that it served as a reading room. By the summer of 1953, when the move was made, the library of the seminary proper had grown to over 26,000 volumes, 25,000 of which had been fully cataloged.



WHERE WE ARE

During June and July the move was made from the Orange Grove property to the new seminary building at Oakland Avenue and Ford Place in the heart of Pasadena. Two blocks north of Colorado Street and within three or four blocks of most of the large business houses and places of interest in the city, the permanent location has many advantages, in spite of the lack of a spacious campus area.

The work of moving was done by the seminary maintenance staff with student help. Since it was interwoven with the transfer of the faculty collections from their offices in the same building, it was impractical to keep separate figures on the library moving. Over 50,000 volumes were moved in all.

The library occupies temporary quarters in the administration building in areas designated for classroom use. The librarian occupies one of the faculty offices, from which the administration and acquisition activities are carried on. There is a small room close by that is used for audio-visual equipment.

Plans call for the erection of a library building just south of the front wing of the administration building as soon as funds are available. Like the main building, it will be built so that an additional floor could be added.



THE READING ROOM

In the middle of the front wing of the administration building, on the second floor, space is provided for reading and study. Here are kept the reference books, part of which are visible in the picture, and on the opposite wall are current magazines and reserve books. The vertical file, missionary file, exam morgue and some other files are kept in this room. A dictionary stand and atlas file is also available. On the one side is the dean's office and on the other the registrar's. The business offices occupy the front portion of this wing, which opens on the back to the faculty offices in the west wing of the building.

Fourteen tables and around seventy chairs are provided, which is not quite adequate at peak loads. Additional study space is available in a room in the basement of the building. Inasmuch as the single men's dormitories are within half a block of the building, there is not quite the demand for study space in the building that there otherwise would be.

A book store is located on the first floor for purchases of textbooks and general religious literature, both new and second hand. This is open to the public.



THE STACK ROOM

Shown above is the face of the north half of the stack room. The stack area is divided into two parts, with a bibliographic and work area in the middle. On a range of low shelving are the *Cumulative Book Index* volumes, and on the shelves below is the *Library of Congress Catalog of Printed Cards* on the one side and the foreign bibliographies and some other reference tools on the other.

The stack itself consists of ten ranges, five on each side, of ten double-faced sections each, except for two ranges of nine sections where pillars are involved. These are uniform Library Bureau steel shelves of gray finish. The top shelf was left open for folio volumes and expansion. Just out of the picture to the right are the two sixty-drawer catalog files and beyond them are the desk and the working file. Technical processes are performed in the south end along the wall. The periodicals are kept in a section by themselves at the north end. Reading chairs with arms are scattered about along the walls, and a limited table space is provided. Greek and Hebrew typewriters are available, and a coin operated typewriter is being installed for student use.

Lighting is controlled partially by regular wall switches and partially by a dial switch. Heating is by steam radiant units with a fan that brings in air from outside ducts and mixes it with inside air in circulation.



THE WILBUR M. SMITH COLLECTION

(Made available to students)

Rare volumes as such have never interested me, except as they have made, or still do make, a vital contribution to Christian literature and to the interpretation of the Scriptures. Normally I would be far more interested in the tenth edition of a book than in its first edition. Through the years, however, it has been my privilege to acquire some works that are apparently quite scarce, and a few not found in theological and Biblical bibliographies.

Ten years ago I was able to secure, most unexpectedly, a complete set of the famous Bampton Lectures, a theological lectureship that has had a continuous history for 170 years, beginning with that by James Bandinel in 1780. The entire set numbers about 150 volumes. Most of the earlier volumes are rather elegantly bound. A few years ago I was told that there were only 29 complete sets of the Bampton Lectures in the world. This is hard to believe. I do not know where the figure originated, but pass it on for what it is worth.

As far as I know, the only complete set in America of that unique and widely-read periodical, *The Sword and the Trowel*, which Dr. Charles Spurgeon began to edit in 1868, is in my possession. It extends over a period of forty years, to 1907, the later volumes being edited by Spurgeon's son, Thomas. The articles are not of great significance today, but the book reviews are still exceedingly valuable. The Wilson

Union List of Serials does not list any library in this country possessing as many as ten successive volumes in this series.

The works of John Wesley in the complete fourteen-volume edition are fairly scarce, though occasionally come upon in our principal libraries. But a supplementary work in twelve volumes is rarely seen. It is entitled, *The Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley*, collected and arranged by G. Osborne, and published in London in the 1870's. Here are over five thousand pages of the poetical writings of these two gifted men of God.

A volume that I have not seen advertised in a quarter-century, but one revealing an enormous amount of labor, an outstanding work of its kind, is *The Testimony of the Heathen to the Truths of Holy Writ*, by Rev. Thomas S. Millington, published in 1863. It is a quarto-size volume of nearly seven hundred pages. Other works dealing with this subject are almost amateurish when compared with this by Millington. I am sure that many students would appreciate a reprinting of it.

Possibly I am the only one in America—for I have failed to find it in any catalog of the theological seminaries of this country—who is privileged to possess a precious booklet issued during the first World War by the inimitable Dr. Alexander Whyte, entitled, *Not Against Flesh and Blood*, on Ephesians 6:12. I wonder how many have seen a large 9 x 12-inch brochure published some years ago by the American Bible Society, *The Bible and Humanity*, by no less a scholar than Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield. It is strange that this has never been reprinted in any of his works. This is a masterly presentation of the thesis that the Bible has always been on the side of common man.

Though I have not checked this personally, I believe my collection of the writings of George Stanley Faber (1773-1854) is the largest in a private library. Faber entered Oxford University when sixteen years of age, and when twenty years old, was elected a fellow and tutor of Lincoln College. He was a Bampton lecturer at the early age of twenty-eight, and was probably the most prolific and scholarly writer on prophecy of the Historical School of his day. His works are not important now, but they had a vast influence then, and must still be carefully studied in any investigation of the prophetic views of the early part of the nineteenth century. Bishop Hurst, in his invaluable *Literature of Theology* (1896), thought Faber's writings so important that he listed eleven of them in various parts of his bibliography. My volumes are as follows:

Horae Mosaicae, or a View of the Mosaical Records with Respect to their coincidence with Profane Antiquity, and their connection with Christianity. 1801. 2 vols.

A Dissertation on the Prophecies relative to the Great Period of 1200 Years, the Papal and Mohomedan Apostasies, the Reign of Antichrist, and the Restoration of the Jews. 1807. 2 vols.

A General and Connected View of the Prophecies Relative to the Conversion of Judah and Israel, the Overthrow of the Confederacy in Palestine, and the Diffusion of Christianity. 1808. 2 vols.

The Origin of Pagan Idolatry Ascertained from Historical Testimony and Circumstantial Evidence. 1816. 3 vols.

The Sacred Calendar of Prophecy, or a Dissertation on the Prophecies of the Grand Period of Seven Times, and of its Second Moiety, or the latter three times and a half. 1828. 3 vols.

Eight Dissertations on Prophetical Passages of Holy Scripture Bearing upon the Promise of a Mighty Deliverer. 1845. 2 vols.

The Many Mansions in the House of the Father. 1854. pp. li, 423.

— WILBUR M. SMITH